State Charter School Board Minutes July 29, 2004 USOE, Room 138

Attending: Brian Allen, Anne Peterson, Sonia Zisumbo, Scott Smith, Barbara Killpack,

David Moss, Patricia Bradley, Jo Schmitt

Excused: Eric Smith

Guests: Ben Leishman, Steve Winitzky, Matt Throckmorton, Carol Lear, Janene Bowen,

Mark Allen, Royce VanTassell

Brian Allen welcomed the board and guests.

Sonia Zisumbo moved approval of the July 15 Minutes. David Moss seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as mailed.

Board members received information regarding the Annual National Association of Charter School Authorizers Conference, October 25 and 26. Members will contact Jo Schmitt if they want to make arrangements to attend.

The board discussed suggestions on changes to the Charter Application presented by Brian Allen. Details of suggested changes were discussed and considered. Board agreed that the Application will probably need to be reviewed yearly.

After much discussion, Anne Peterson moved that Patricia remove the Reader's Guide and Administrative Checklist from the Application itself, include a place for applicants to describe how their proposed charter meets the purposes of charter schools as outlined in statute, add a place for applicants to describe their intended outreach efforts, add an email address to the contact information and post the application with these changes to the website for further comment accepted until August 12 (1 week before the next board meeting). Bobbi Killpack seconded the motion. Motion passed and board will finalize the application at its next meeting.

Sonia Zisumbo moved to table the discussion of whether to merge the assurances with the agreement and to leave the agreement posted to the website with comments accepted until August 12. Scott Smith seconded the motion. The board will finalize the Agreement at its next meeting.

Board discussed who should read charter applications. Scott Smith moved that we continue to use state office readers and develop a pool of other interested readers from higher education and existing operators. Sonia Zisumbo seconded the motion and the motion passed. Patricia will bring information about the pool of potential readers to the next board meeting for possible selection of readers.

Board discussed the strategy they will use to review applications. There was agreement that the board will want to see applicants fact to face for their presentations before making decisions and that they will want summaries of comments made by application readers.

The Federal Charter School Program was discussed. Patricia explained the need to know how many schools will want funding in this fiscal year so that awards can be finalized to the first round of applicants. The board suggests that as administrators of this grant, the board send to districts a caution that unless we are made aware of charters that districts may grant for next school year (2005-2006) before October, 2004, there may not be sufficient federal funds to make an award to those schools in the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Patricia will prepare a letter to send to the school districts.

The board suggested that we look to outside readers for these grants including district grant writers who may be willing to serve.

No decisions were made on using a funding formula to establish grant allocations. Many ideas were discussed such as base plus quality, declining amounts in second and third years and base amount plus for size of school.

A plan for converting the existing State Board charters to the Charter School Board was discussed. If existing schools need an amendment we should consider them first. They may be considered in September. Patricia will survey the charters needing to convert and get a feel for what they need and report to the board in August.

Board discussed that for this year, the conversion process will serve as the monitoring process. Carol Lear requested that schools be asked to address areas where they had had problems in the past. It was agreed that the board would like to have conversions completed by December.

Dave Moss mentioned that as a State Board member, he and Theresa Theurer discussed with Eric Lindsey the possible advertising he might do for East Hollywood High before the State Board meeting August 6, 2004. Dave and Theresa agreed that Lindsey should include in any announcement that the charter is pending final approval by the State Board, until after the final decision is made with the State Board.

Bobbi Killpack moved that the meeting adjourn at 12:45. Anne Peterson seconded.

Next meeting August 19, 2004 10:00

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